

NESHAMINY

Renovation, construction on schedule

The project is scheduled to be completed by the end of summer 2009.

By RACHEL CANELLI COURIER TIMES

More than 50 down and roughly 110 to go.

That's the number of weeks that have gone into the Neshaminy High School renovation and construction project, officials said.

It's one-third done, said business administrator Joseph Paradise.

The \$82 million project, of which the district borrowed \$77 million, remains on time and on budget, Paradise said.

"The cooperation of the staff and the contractors who know that they're in a school is what has made this work well," he said. "They try to keep the noise to off-hours, or weekends, and give notice of loud projects so that we can move classes."

Workers are cleaning up and putting finishing touches on the refurbished cafeteria, which was renovated with new floors, walls, ceilings and digital clocks, administrators said.

Crews are also painting and putting wood floors in the new auxiliary gymnasium, which will be open to students by November.

The gym includes a new 40-foot-high climbing wall, fitness equipment and lined tiles for badminton and volleyball, said Paul Minotti, director of facilities.

The climbing wall in the existing gym will be torn down and that room will be refurbished next summer. A new concession stand is also being constructed there, officials said.

Also new to that area are trainers' facilities, a loading dock and custodial area. The building's new boiler room will be operational by October.

Piping was installed throughout the school for a more than \$1 million sprinkler system, said Minotti.

By January, students will access the building through a new main entrance.

A section of classrooms will be knocked down to build a road leading to that entrance.

In the winter, pupils also will utilize one of two twostory, 34-classroom wings. The other part should be completed by next summer, administrators said.

Both will feed into the new main corridor, which is being referred to as "Main Street" because it links the main entrance, auditorium and auxiliary gym, said Paradise.

All the updated classrooms include new desks, several computers and double-paned, energy efficient windows. Teachers also will have planning centers for each subject's department, he said.

After the winter recess, the main offices will be torn down to be rebuilt by next summer. At that time, the 16 modular classrooms in use will be disassembled, Minotti said.

As always, all work areas will remain blocked from the faculty and teens throughout the school year, said Paradise.





The project is adding 250,000 square feet to the high school. ALYSSA CWANGER / **COURIER TIMES**